



MICHAEL J. CUSICK
Assemblyman 63rd District
Richmond County

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January 17, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Andrew M. Cuomo,

We are writing today to request an expedited study on the creation of an additional lane of traffic or an extension of the High Occupancy Vehicle lane on the Staten Island Expressway from the end of the HOV lane near exit 10 to the Goethals Bridge. The DOT has done excellent work on the Expressway over the last several years, and we believe an additional lane will further the DOT's objectives in creating a modern, safe, and efficient traffic corridor. With a new study we can position the state to be shovel ready in order to leverage federal and state financial assets to benefit Staten Island residents and regional commuters alike with a thorough traffic congestion remediation program.

As you are aware, the Expressway serves as a critical terminal between Staten Island, Brooklyn, and New Jersey. Hundreds of thousands of people rely on the Expressway, with more than 80,000 cars transiting the Goethals Bridge on a daily basis alone. Due to the HOV lane's terminus at exit 10 heading towards the Goethals Bridge, Staten Island residents have experienced routine bottlenecks that are frustrating, damaging to the environment, and potentially deadly. This point on the expressway is where much of the traffic congestion exists, that is why we believe both options should be explored. While we have heard from several officials that current traffic volume is inconsistent with the need for an additional lane, the actual experience of Staten Islanders and others who rely on the transit corridor tells a different story.

Along with current legislation in the Assembly to improve enforcement, we believe an additional lane on the expressway or an extended HOV lane leading up to the Goethals Bridge will significantly improve the conditions there, reduce harmful carbon dioxide emissions caused by idling traffic, and result in a higher quality of life for residents and commuters.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns and we stand ready to assist in whatever capacity is appropriate.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Cusick
Member of Assembly



Max Rose
Congressman, NY-11